

THESE MEN WANT THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Every democrat is asked to pledge himself to attend all of the primaries of his party to be held between now and the next democratic national convention, unless unavoidably prevented and to use his influence to secure a clear, honest and straight-forward declaration of the party's position on every question upon which the voters of the party desire to speak. Those desiring to be enrolled can either write to The Commoner approving the object of the organization and asking to have their names entered on the roll, or they can fill out and mail the blank pledge which is printed on page 14 of this issue.

It will require time to cover the entire field, but if democrats co-operate the desired result will be accomplished.

Send to The Commoner your own primary pledge and then ask your neighbor to do likewise.

Bird S. Coler, at one time democratic nominee for governor of New York, writing under date of May 8, says: "I most heartily endorse your position on this subject and in the future, as in the past, shall do all I can to have every citizen attend the primaries. It is only through intelligent action at the primaries that the people may hope to control the government."

A Toledo, Ohio, democrat suggests that the wives, sisters and sweethearts of democrats be asked to lend a hand in the circulation of the primary pledge. He says that the women have a deep interest in this work, and that if they were asked to co-operate they would gladly do so. This is an excellent suggestion. Who will be the first to respond to the cordial invitation here issued to the mothers, the wives, the sisters and the sweethearts of democrats everywhere?

Have you noticed, among the letters reproduced in The Commoner, the large number that have been written by aged men? These men have profited by experience, and it is well that the rising generations be given the opportunity to read their words of advice.

Have you noticed also that young men, some of them mere lads, have shown their great interest in the primary pledge plan? The Commoner has reproduced several letters from boys of eighteen years who have circulated primary pledges, and have declared their purpose to help further the good work. This is a good sign and it must be remembered that the eighteen-year-old boy of today will be a voter in 1908. If as a lad he shows a keen interest in the politics of his country it is not likely that his interest will decrease when he reaches his majority.

An interesting letter is written by John H. Tietze of La Crosse, Wisconsin. Enclosing his primary pledge young Tietze says: "Though still a minor, I take this timely opportunity of joining and pledging myself to the true, Jeffersonian democracy and to attend all the democratic meetings so far as possible, because I shall have a ballot to cast at the next presidential election. Though a minor may not be able to vote at all of the political meetings, yet he thus becomes politically, and in this case, morally, educated so that when he goes to the polls he will know something of what he is voting for or against and how to vote. Beginning at the age of 18 or 19 he can learn very much about the principles advocated and the needs of and the wrongs in, our institutions. The signing of the pledge will serve as a constant reminder to him who signs it. I believe that this is an excellent chance for the older minors

and for the party to secure the votes of the young voters in 1908. It will be 'education for the young,' something that the most of the constituency of the G. O. P. do not receive from their leaders—and why not? I feel convinced that the true Jeffersonian democracy correlates perfectly with Christianity. To use Burke's words, 'Whatever is morally wrong can never be politically right.'"

Another young man, L. Grover Bishop of Portland, Ind., writes as follows: "I am a young man twenty years of age, but will be able to cast a straight vote for Kansas City democracy next year. It gives me great pleasure to put my name on record at your office as one who promises to keep the faith and in the great battles of the future to be found always on the side of popular government."

Another lad in his teens, Banks P. Turner, of Newbern, Tenn., says that while he is but a boy he is "as sincere as anyone," and adds: "When we see accounts of capital enjoying its \$5,000 banquets and labor living from the swill barrels of hotels, we readily see that something is wrong. Socialists say by adopting, or rather abolishing the wage system we can overcome this. Perhaps we could but I am democrat enough to believe if we should adopt the principles of Jefferson we could prevent it. It is such a complex affair that it seems that the capitalists have forgotten that this is a government of, by and for the people, but instead is a government of, by and for the capitalists. The social conditions existing in the United States are unbearable to a liberty loving people. The Teutons left us the characteristic, but it seems as if this is no longer a trait of the republican party. We gaze with a mixture of horror and terror upon the scenes being enacted in Russia, but unless the control of our government is placed in more reliable and democratic hands, perhaps in the future, near or distant, the United States may experience the same thing. To prevent this requires the due and strict administration of laws; the senate or 'trust harbor' being dredged, and lastly the common people voting at every election. I believe by doing this we may be tided over the shoals of capitalism. I heartily endorse the steps taken by you to do this. If every man can be made to realize his duty to his home, to his state and to the nation there will be no republican victory in 1908."

Extracts from other letters, every one enclosing primary pledges, follow:

George P. Sights, North Bend, Neb. Believing that any legislation that will benefit the common people must come from the democratic party, I gladly sign the enclosed pledge and bid God speed for your efforts for the people.

R. E. Bowles, merchant, Creston, Ill.—Please send me copies of the primary pledge.

J. C. Mithen, Wichita, Kans.—I hope in 1908 the republican wing of the democratic party will not control as they did in the last campaign. For the advancement of the old line democratic party and as the surest means of success the plutocratic contingent should be shoved into the republican party and branded with that party's brand. That will add real strength to the democratic party and add to our chances of success. Here's hoping success to true democracy, the cause and hope of the common people.

James Allen, Fontana, Kans.—I have taken your paper from its first issue and expect to take it as long as I can raise the dollar. I voted for Par-

ker, but it was under protest, and when I read his Jefferson day speech I felt like kicking myself. I wonder if he would like to run on the same ticket again. Put my name on your roll as a fighting democrat.

J. M. Lowry, Bellefontaine, Ohio.—Enclosed find my pledge. We must liberate the white slaves of the country—the common people. I am the first from this place to send in pledge. I look for The Commoner every Saturday for my Sunday reading. Yours for democratic success.

J. L. Brock, Ludlow, Mo.—Will send a few names of democrats of this vicinity who are willing to take and stand by the primary pledge or anything Mr. Bryan thinks will be beneficial to the democratic party and the principles declared by Jefferson and Jackson and promulgated by Bryan.

J. S. Pinckley, Denton, Texas.—I heartily endorse your plan. If all so-called democrats would stand bravely by you, as I aim to do, the party will win. I believe in the democracy of Jefferson, Jackson and Bryan, but I supported Parker in the last election because he was the democratic nominee.

G. S. Allen, Ashland City, Tenn.—Enclosed find primary pledge with twenty-five signatures. Many more can be got by going out in the country. The farmers very readily sign it.

A. D. Miller, Jr., Parker, Idaho.—Enclosed find signed primary pledge.

A. F. McCue, Minatare, Neb.—Enclosed find primary pledge. I wish to unfurl my banner to the breeze of true democracy.

B. M. Nye, Santa Rosa, Calif.—You are certainly entitled to the deep gratitude of the democratic party if for nothing else than this noble missionary work for honest organization along the lines of the primary pledge. Non-attendance at and non-interest in primaries has been perhaps more than anything else the cause of defections and defeats in the democratic party at national elections. Shall forward more pledges in the near future.

J. H. Mobley, Ione, Ore.—Signed and enclosed my pledge I send, to rank and file I'm one; and perhaps the first to enroll their name from Ione, Ore. Ere long others will follow on before it is too late, and join with true democracy for 1908.

N. F. Watts, County Commissioner, Grand View, Tex.—I have signed the primary pledge and hope to live to see the Kansas City platform endorsed by the people.

Andrew Anderson, West Milton, Pa.—I believe in the principles you advocate. I will be found on the right side when election day comes around. I sign the primary pledge and wish every democrat would do likewise and keep it.

J. E. Dupree, Ivanhoe, Texas.—Enclosed find primary pledge. I am an old man, a confederate veteran, much older than Mr. Bryan. I have always attended the primaries of my party and while this step is not necessary to bind my own acts, yet I freely sign the pledge in order to influence others and to show which side I am on in the great battle between democracy and plutocracy. In devising this excellent and unique plan Mr. Bryan will receive the thanks of all true democrats. I am especially gratified that this plan is endorsed by such real democrats as Tom L. Johnson, Joseph W. Folk and Champ Clark. Now we want to hear from Senator Teller and all other such leaders tried and true, who, however old they may be, are yet on account of their hard services still "boys in the trenches." Let this voluntary census go on until

the masses are fully heard from, yea, from all "the boys at the forks of the creek!" Your friend and agent.

Dug Hinton, Marshall, Mo.—Here's my primary pledge.

C. J. Fitzsimmons, Marshall, Mo.—I am glad to express my willingness to sign the primary pledge. I believe it a good move.

T. E. Wooldridge, Greentown, Ind.—I endorse the plan. If all democrats would attend conventions and primaries and select honest men for higher conventions, I believe we could get a platform that genuine democrats could support. The democratic party must stand for something positive if it would win the support of the rank and file. I always attend primaries in our county. In 1904 we had a convention where there were fifteen men, most of whom had voted for McKinley in 1896 and in 1900. They had come into the convention and tried to select Parker delegates for the convention at Indianapolis, but we had about four hundred democrats who had always been loyal, and we sent fourteen delegates to the state convention who were true to the Kansas City platform. When they got to Indianapolis they were denied seats in the convention. As a result of that outrage Howard county last fall gave Roosevelt 3,000. I have been committeeman for ten years, until last fall. I refused to vote for Parker and I am proud of it. Yours for democracy such as was demonstrated at Chicago.

E. D. Curtis, Albion.—Enclosed I hand you my pledge and that of S. C. Bodine. I believe in the principles you advocate.

Wm. Eller, Mexico, Mo.—Enclosed find list of names from our school district heartily endorsing your primary pledge plan. We shall use every means possible to strengthen the party from now until 1908. May God bless you in the good work you are doing.

L. F. Wills, Loon Lake, Wash.—Find primary pledge signed cheerfully. I am fully in accord with the democracy of The Commoner, and take pleasure in joining the forces of faithful democrats who are sending in their pledges. I believe that government can in no way be brought as near to the people as it can through the primaries. Politics needs purifying from township to state and nation. I hope every democrat in the United States will sign this pledge and faithfully work to the end that boss and machine rule may be rebuked.

R. L. Edwards, Dexter, Ore.—I am with you in this movement. I voted for Parker but was sorry when I read his Jefferson day speech that he had come out for Wall Street. I do not see how any one can stand for Wall Street principles and at the same time espouse the cause of the common people. I keenly realize that the fight is on to control the next democratic convention. I believe your efforts are righteous and that you will stand for right principles.

J. M. Holliday, Sixteen, Mont.—Enclosed find additional pledges. This makes all but one of the democrats of this precinct. It is certainly encouraging to see the host pledge for a contest that will bring joy to all good democrats and lovers of their country.

R. L. Morgan, Lawyer, Bloomington, Ind.—I am glad to have the opportunity of giving my time in getting signatures to this pledge. I find no trouble in getting democrats to sign it. Please mail me fifteen or twenty more blank primary pledges. I desire the blanks which have room for several names and addresses.

Wm. E. Berry, Stillwater, Okla.—I am in sympathy with this demo-